

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-008

Acreage: 28.1

Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Description

The unit of BLM land identified as CO-060-008 is only 28.1 acres but meets the size requirement criteria with the adjacent Red Cloud Peak Wilderness Study Area (WSA) as the western boundary. BLM road 3303 is the northern boundary with private land as the southern and eastern boundary.

(1) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

The northern boundary is extremely steep rock cliffs that naturally separate the parcel from BLM Road 3303(Alpine Gulch/Alpine Loop), making access very difficult. Dense vegetation with sage brush, aspen/spruce, grasses, and wildflowers along with the rising topography to the south contribute to the overall naturalness of CO-060-008. A small section of closed road used to access adjacent private land is visible from aerial photos running through the south eastern corner of the parcel but is not visible on the ground and does not detract from overall naturalness of the parcel. Previous inventory of this parcel conducted by the Montrose BLM office in 1979 found this area to lack overall naturalness and was excluded from the Red Cloud Peak WSA (CO-030-208).

(2) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

Located above the cliffs along the Alpine Gulch/Alpine Loop (BLM road 3303), dense vegetation and rising topography to the south provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

This parcel provides opportunities for unconfined and primitive recreation such as hiking, backpacking and wildlife viewing as well as providing access to the Red Cloud Peak WSA.

(3) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value)?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

Unique geological formations and rock cliffs are located along the Alpine Gulch/Alpine Loop (BLM road 3303). Within this parcel there is a high level of lynx habitat and a low level of elk wintering habitat.

Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-008

Result of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive or unconfined type of recreation? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Check one

 X The area, or portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

 The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

John Millea

Corrie Barbour

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by District or Field Manager:

Name: Brian S. George Title: Field Manager
Date: 7/24/13

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.